

WASHINGTON – Congressman John W. Olver (1st District) announced today that the funding for two transportation projects in Franklin County has been approved. The funding was included in the Omnibus Appropriations Conference Report approved by Congress. "I'm glad that Congress has finally approved an overall spending bill for the current fiscal year," Olver said. A summary of these projects is included below.

Route 2 Improvements: \$4.4 million

Olver secured \$4.4 million for safety improvements along Route 2 in the spending bill. "This funding will make significant safety improvements on a stretch of highway that is one of the most dangerous in the state," Olver said. This project is part of an on-going effort to improve the safety and efficiency of Route 2. "As the northern scenic gateway to central and western Massachusetts, Route 2 is one of the most heavily traveled roads in the state," Olver said. Last fiscal year, Olver secured \$3 million for the realignment of the Route 2 bypass on the northern end of the state. For more information, contact Linda Dunlavy, executive director of the Franklin Regional Office.

Interstate 91 ITS System: \$600,000

The final budget also includes \$600,000 for planning and design for an Interstate-91 ITS system. The initial idea for this project came when the Massachusetts Highway Department was studying the feasibility of an ITS system. "I am extremely pleased to provide funding to get this important project underway," Olver said. The Mass. Highway ITS system will include the installation of cameras, fiber-optic communication systems, and other technologies. For more information, contact Linda Dunlavy, executive director of Franklin Regional Office.

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